

THE BELL RINGER



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TSSAA SPLIT

Scott Bowen

Patrick Wilson
Montgomery Bell Academy
Nashville, Tennessee

Friday, March 15 is a day that will long be remembered in the TSSAA for bringing both mass confusion and mass controversy. On that day, as most private schools relaxed on their Spring Breaks, nine TSSAA council members voted by way of a 5-3 vote (with one abstaining) to split state playoffs in all sports into public and private school divisions.

This vote, brought on and vigorously pushed forward by the principal of public Murfreesboro Riverdale High School (which coincidentally lost to private school Brentwood Academy in last year's Clinic Bowl), surprised the entire state. Even Hillsboro High principal Jean Litterer, a council member, did not know the vote was scheduled for the meeting on the 15th. Fortunately, the attempt of the Riverdale principal to sneak the proposal in the back door was foiled. Amid rumors of a lawsuit, the vote was declared void by Article 7 of the TSSAA constitution. According to this article, any proposal of change must be submitted to the TSSAA four weeks prior to a vote, and member schools must be notified of

the change by way of the TSSAA monthly bulletin. But this issue is far from dead — on May 1 the council will meet again to vote on the split once and for all. All this controversy has stirred up numerous questions,

students' minds. They think private schools have a distinct advantage in that they can choose their students and their athletes, whereas public schools are forced to take whoever walks in their doors. A closer look, though, tells

admission process. Because of our tough admission policies and academic requirements, the pool from which to choose our athletes is much smaller than that of McGavock's or Hillwood's. This view has been and probably always will be held by MBA students like Al Fuller who see the split as public schools "copping out." Al believes that public schools "don't think they can do well" at a level with private schools.

Most likely, long-time athletic director Mr. Bennett is correct in his guess as to why the split arose, when he points to "a few private schools, two or three, that, for some reason, have, from a public relations standpoint, alienated the public school family." Mr. Bennett speaks of schools such as McCallie which have openly broken TSSAA rules over the years by recruiting and giving too much financial aid. However, Mr. Bennett stresses that MBA is not such an institution, as we have had a good relationship with the public schools and TSSAA since its beginning. MBA is not, he says, "like a lot of private (continued on page 5)"



Will Max Fuller, or any other MBA player, ever again be able to score on Gallatin and the rest of the state's public schools?

only some of which have answers, about what this split would mean to the TSSAA, MBA, and financial aid.

The public schools' desire for such a split evades many MBA stu-

dent's minds. They think private schools have a distinct advantage in that they can choose their students and their athletes, whereas public schools are forced to take whoever walks in their doors. A closer look, though, tells

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Nathan Sabel

Morgan Entrekin, MBA class of '73, will be this year's commencement speaker. While at MBA, Mr. Entrekin pushed for a number of changes in school policy and curriculum. He tried to persuade Mr. Carter to make MBA coed and helped to set up student exchanges for MBA and Harpeth Hall students. He was surprised to be asked to speak since, "I was a little controversial at the time."

After graduating from MBA, Entrekin earned a B.A. at Stanford and excelled in several of Harvard's publishing courses. Out of Stanford, he was hired by Delacorte Press where he worked closely with such authors as Joe McGinnis, Jayne Anne Phillips, and Kurt Vonnegut. In 1982, Simon

and Schuster recruited Morgan to be senior editor on its staff. There, he was largely responsible for the success of such writers as Dr. Michael DeBakey, Pat Welch, and Mike Dowdall, whose works all became national bestsellers.

In 1984, Morgan moved to Atlantic Monthly Press, where the Entrekin/Atlantic Press imprint was stamped on over forty titles in all categories of literature. Several of those forty won the Nobel Prize or the National Book Award. By 1991, Entrekin was president and publisher of Atlantic, which soon absorbed Grove Press and gained title over books by Samuel Beckett, William Burroughs, and many noteworthy others. Recently, Entrekin's company has published a variety of books, ranging from an anthology of modern Chinese fiction to a collection of Vaclav Havel's plays to Winston Groom's book *Shrouds of Glory* to Quentin Tarantino's screenplays. Mr. Entrekin was largely responsible for Mr. Groom's appearance at MBA last year. A firm believer in

free expression, a free press, and the exchange of ideas, Entrekin has generously offered to let MBA have as many books as it wants from his com-

pany for free. Concerning the actual speech, Morgan says it's still on the drawing board; we'll just have to wait and see.



Morgan Entrekin lounges in his New York office.

page 2.....	Library Renovation
.....	Curfew
page 3.....	Clinton
page 4.....	Lunchroom Dilemma
page 5.....	Liber Ruber
page 6.....	Baseball
.....	Riflery

LIBRARY RENOVATION

Preston Bottomy

Throughout the 1995-96 school year the Library Committee has worked together to discuss plans for renovating the Patrick Wilson Library. The committee's goals included improving the library's aesthetics and technology.

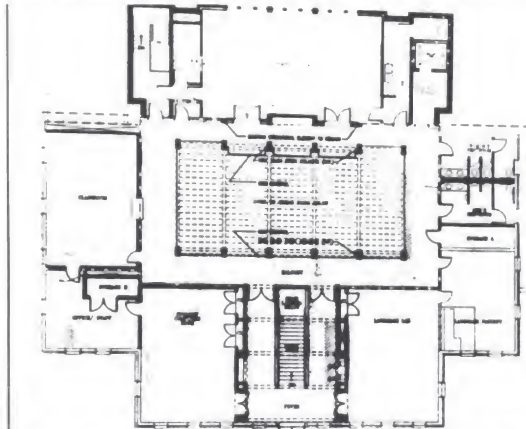
The school chose Kem Hinton of Tuck-Hinton Architects to draw up the plans for the library. The school has previously employed Tuck-

year. The Wilson family has generously offered to finance the entire renovation at a projected cost of 1.5 million dollars.

During the renovation, the foyer will be opened and enlarged, extracting space from the present AV room. Additionally, double doors will be added to the facade of the library, and a grand staircase will be inserted in the center of the new entrance. The

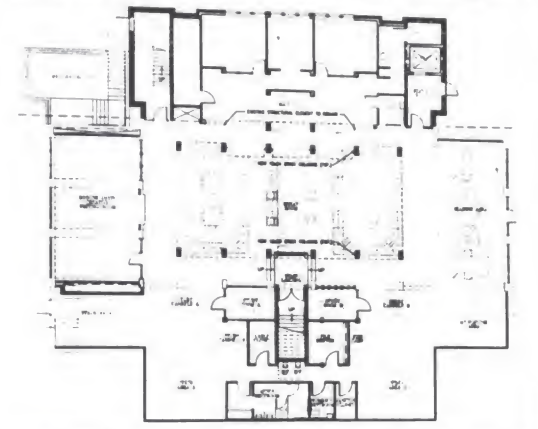
location of the present classroom, there will exist a faculty computer room. The language lab will receive an updating of equipment. Both men's and women's bathrooms will be added next to the language lab. Across from the grand foyer, through its glass wall, will be a seminar room, that will be part of a two-story, 3710 square-foot addition to the library's east side. The seminar room will contain the most

library, search for books at Vanderbilt, or access the internet. The addition on the lower level will comprise a larger, more centrally-located librarians' office and circulation desk. Throughout the lower floor, a number of improvements will be made, including an increase in restroom facilities, and the addition of study tables and private study rooms for everyone's use. A comfortable reading area will



Hinton in the construction of the Davis Building and in the renovation of Ball Hall. After receiving many bids to do the physical renovations from several different contractors, Mr. Gioia and the Board of Trustees selected the Mathews Company, which is planning to begin renovation after final examinations this year, and will likely continue into January of the following

year. The Wilson family has generously offered to finance the entire renovation at a projected cost of 1.5 million dollars. During the renovation, the foyer will be opened and enlarged, extracting space from the present AV room. Additionally, double doors will be added to the facade of the library, and a grand staircase will be inserted in the center of the new entrance. The



modern audio-visual equipment; an adjoining kitchen and elevator will service this new room.

The emphasis on the ground floor is to make the library's modern resources more useful and accessible. The center of the library will be dominated by a computer reference section that will allow students to find information quickly and easily within the

library, search for books at Vanderbilt, or access the internet. The addition on the lower level will comprise a larger, more centrally-located librarians' office and circulation desk. Throughout the lower floor, a number of improvements will be made, including an increase in restroom facilities, and the addition of study tables and private study rooms for everyone's use. A comfortable reading area will

be added as well. For future need, there will be computer hook-ups throughout the library. Mr. Gioia is excited about the "open feeling and computer connection and their effects on teachers, students, and visitors. Students should come to the library to read and study," Mr. Gioia said, "as well as access information and explore."

NEW CURFEW LAW RIDDLED WITH HOLES

Rob Humbracht

As I'm sure everyone knows, the Metro Council has passed a bill putting the curfew at 11:00 p.m. While I'm sure that most of us are pretty ticked at the new curfew, it actually is not all that strict. The bill was passed this past February 22, and was put into effect on March 8. The facts of the bill are these: the curfew of eleven o'clock is only in effect from Sunday through Thursday nights, leaving Friday and Saturday nights' curfew at midnight. The curfew is not in effect from June 1 through September 1, and the law only applies to those of us seventeen or younger.

Aside from these guidelines, the Metro Council made an exception for just about everything that someone could do past eleven o'clock. Here are the loopholes to the curfew. First, if you are accompanied by one of your parents, you can stay out as late as you want. Second, you're free if you're accompanied by an adult (over 17) who is "authorized by a par-

ent of such juvenile for a designated period of time and purpose within a specified area" (as stated in the bill itself). Third, you can stay out until twelve thirty if on an errand directed by your parent. Fourth, the statute cannot interfere with exercising anyone's first amendment rights (freedom of speech, freedom to the press, etc.), so you can stay out as late as you want if you're using one of those rights. You can also stay on the "property where the juvenile resides" until twelve thirty in the morning if you felt like it (or for all those microbes who want to play outside late at night). The next exception to the curfew is if you're at an "official school, religious, or other recreational activity" or coming home from one. In other words, an event where an adult is responsible for your actions. The kind Metro Council also adds that if you have an emergency (like your house burns down) you need not worry about the curfew law. Also, if you have a job

past curfew, Metro allows you to work and to have forty-five minutes going to the job and forty-five coming back. The final exception is that if you're on the interstate after curfew, you're safe, no matter where you are.

So, now you're probably wondering, "So what if I do get caught past curfew?" The other part of the bill is an increased punishment on the juvenile and on their parents. Here's what probably will happen: you would be sent to Juvenile Hall, once there you can be fined, you may have to perform community service, and your parents would be fined up to fifty bucks for your breaking of curfew. But, I think that the police officers would be reasonable about dragging someone in to juvy if they're on their way home or have a legitimate excuse.

With all of these exceptions to the curfew, the only real way that someone could be dragged into juvy would be if they were out trying to cause trouble, which is what the bill

tries to stop. The bill was created by the City Council to (as the front of the bill says), "provide for the protection of juveniles from each other and from other persons," and "to ensure that the bill will be in the interest of the public health, safety, and general welfare." With trying to stop crime being the whole purpose of the bill, you wonder if it's actually worth the inconvenience it causes to those under 18 and their parents. Opponents of the bill, including virtually everyone under eighteen and many parents, say that the new curfew is unnecessary and burdensome. Also, what's the difference of one hour on five nights of the week? Will it actually hinder crime? The most recent studies have shown that most juvenile crime occurs right after school during the week and that late at night (from eleven to twelve on school nights) is when much more crime is committed by adults. So, will the bill affect anything? I think not.

"LACKING IN SUBSTANCE AND STRETCHING THE TRUTH..."

Brian Stults

I was appalled and dismayed to read the accusations levied against Clinton by the Opinions Editor in the most recent issue of *The Bell Ringer*. Lacking in substance and stretching the truth, the statements made in "Elections '96" were the epitome of Republican political strategy: call Mr. Clinton a name, give a long-winded and highfalutin' speech about the need for "honor" and "integrity" in a President, and hope no one is paying attention to anything except the catch-phrases. Sadly enough for conservatives, it's not their day in Washington. The whining and the partisanship on Capitol Hill has quickly become old, and the public is searching for a leader to help focus and resolve disputes. President Clinton is filling that role by bringing decisiveness and authority to the presidency. The payoff for him has been a surge in the polls and the weakening of the Republican-dominated Congress.

"Elections '96" made several challenges against the President, the first being the issue of character and integrity. Despite rampant suspicion regarding the affairs of Whitewater, Travelgate, and the like, there is no concrete evidence to implicate Clinton in any legal misconduct. Additionally, the *Agence France Presse* has taken polls revealing that the public believes the Clintons have mostly told the truth about the Whitewater affair. In fact, as White House press spokesman Mike McCurry and others have explained, the Republicans frequently seem to re-hash issues that occurred prior to Clinton's presidency. This failure to find new material to throw at the President signifies that he is doing an excellent job in office. In recent months, Clinton has settled into a very bipartisan stance of cooperation and even compromise, something the G.O.P. is very quick to call "waffling." Actually, this cooperation is a part of a political strategy called centrism, a stance in which a politician positions himself between the factions of his own party and the opposition. DeWayne Wickham of *USA Today* confirms that, "It is this middle ground that Clinton is trying to find....he's also got to convince a majority of those who go to the polls in November to follow him there." Centrism, espoused chiefly by campaign advisor Dick Morris, has put the President in the unique position of being able to commandeer certain items from the Republican agenda. In essence, Clinton has claimed the best of both worlds: he has become an anti-big

government politician with interests in specific reform and keeping the government afloat. The President has formulated a moderate agenda while avoiding the extremist proposals of the reactionary right and the radical left. Marianne Means of *The Denver Post* aptly phrases Clinton's situation as being able to stand "above the partisan fray."

The "Elections '96" article also accused Clinton of being a hypocrite whose actions fail to match his words. Many conservatives do believe that the President has "stolen" the rhetoric of their agenda but not their zeal for action; there is no proof, however, to substantiate such a claim. In a prelude to Clinton's State of the Union Address, *Newsday* reported that Clinton's bipartisan stance was indeed genuine, shown by the commitment to balance the budget in seven years. In fact, the President has gone out of his way to find areas of mutual agreement with the Republicans. Large-scale action has occurred on a number of fronts (discussed later). On some of these issues, Clinton is even criticized for acting too Republican. A contradiction then seems apparent: no matter what kinds of proposal Clinton makes or endorses, the G.O.P. is always quick to criticize. This might suggest that a large number of Republicans want to play politics rather than fight for a real, substantive agenda as promised in the "Contract With America." Since Clinton has been running on the platform of a "New Democrat" for some time now, it seems odd that Republicans still have not created a unified strategy to deal with the President's position.


The Opinions Editor's article defined the Republican platform in several distinct areas. In each of these, President Clinton has tried to cooperate with the G.O.P. and act in the political center without compromising his convictions. The first issues mentioned are the downsizing of the federal government and the balancing of the budget, goals for which Clinton, mainstream Democrats, and Republicans have all been fighting. Ideological differences occur, however, when decisions have to be made about which programs to cut. The G.O.P. seems content to chop off social services (these programs are supposedly "charity"). The destruction of the status quo welfare system, the second mentioned part of the Republican platform, is nothing but an unrealistic vision for society and the economy. The truth is that America's modern and changing economy does not allow an unemployment percentage of zero. In fact, recent government estimates put the current figure at about 5.5 percent, the lowest in decades. Financial security, then, rests for many in the hands of government assistance. President Clinton and Democrats are looking for ways to reform the system that has been bogged down for decades now; they realize that to cut off one's nose to spite one's face is not a plausible course of action.

Third, the article discusses reform of the IRS and the tax system. The article makes a faulty generalization by saying that all Republicans are unified in their desire for a flat tax. Yet, recent political events have knocked the flat tax off of many Republicans' agenda. Fred Barnes of *Newsday* explains that Bob Dole, in particular, is likely to choose a balanced budget over slashing taxes, the opposite of a supply side approach. Dole's position is a clear reminder that the tax issue can be politically volatile and has the potential to cause serious G.O.P. intra-party friction. With Steve Forbes out of the picture, Republicans will likely approach tax reform cautiously lest they jeopardize their modicum of political power.

Dole's recent campaign speeches in California and other states have claimed that President Clinton is too weak on crime and needs to be replaced by someone stronger on the issues. Dole apparently forgets the landmark legislation of 1994 which banned Uzis, AK-47's, and other semi-automatic weapons. Now many Republicans (Dole is excluded here) would like to see an

(continued on page 4)

MICHAEL *Renee*
PRESENTS



DOUGLAS KASSELBERG IS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE BELL, PRESIDENT OF HECYLC MBAA, SECRETARY OF THE SERVICE CLUB, AND A MEMBER OF TOTOMOL.

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"LACKING IN SUBSTANCE..."

(continued from page 3)

immediate reversal of this policy because of "implementation defects." The truth here is that these types of weapons contribute to unnecessary death, more professional criminals, and powerful druglords. Clinton has also made progress in the area of juvenile substance abuse, particularly regarding tobacco products. Last August, the President formulated a strategy with the FDA to curb the sale and marketing of tobacco products to minors. This particular topic has been a lightning rod for political discussion nationwide because of the scope and novelty of the legislation. And finally, even though Clinton vetoed a previous bill, he is not really opposed to limits on appeals for death row inmates; the original bill contained hidden provisions for changes in Medicare. Overall, Clinton's track record on crime has been exemplary.

Next is the issue of immigration, one of the most volatile topics of the 1990's and one that requires some clarification. Both Republicans and Democrats are committed to cutting the flow of illegal immigrants. Clinton's desire to assist has been demonstrated several times; for example, he has increased the number of border patrol agents along the boundary with Mexico by 50 percent. *The Boston Globe* reports that this action has increased apprehensions by more than 30 percent. Many of the "hot crossing" points such as San Diego have been better sealed, and Attorney General Janet Reno has developed programs to better help INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service) agents deal with the problem.

Regarding legal immigrants, many ideological distinctions emerge. Republicans do not have a consistent message on this issue; some moderates support current quotas while isolationists such as Pat Buchanan would like to see a total cutoff. Clinton has maintained an open immigration stance on this issue for a number of reasons, one of which is that immigration is important to us as a nation. Prominent policy analysts such as Larry Diamond (Professor of International Studies at Stanford) and Ben Wattenburg (who served at the American Enterprise Institute) have concluded that legal immigration performs such functions as expansion of the private sector, cultural understanding, and promotion of American democracy abroad. These authors maintain through empirical evidence that legal immigration is a signal of American commitment to democratic ideals. It doesn't take too many steps to realize that a democratic world is safer than a non-democratic one.

Sixth is affirmative action. While I am not a defender of the philosophy in practice, its theoretical base is sound. Used in moderation, it can be an effective tool to ensure fairness in business hiring. Many speculate regarding affirmative action's overuse today, but society benefits from a modicum of protection for minorities and challenged groups. Affirmative action, then, may be outdated and even, at times, abusive, but there are critical moments when it must be employed to protect civil rights.

The final issue mentioned in "Elections '96" is that of a bolstered U.S. defense. This area is one in which Clinton has excelled and cooperated to the utmost with the G.O.P. In fact, in the most recent defense budget appropriations, President Clinton agreed to virtually all the Republican demands, including provisions that substantially increase spending, restrict access to abortion and immediately discharge service members with the AIDS virus, notes the *Chicago Tribune*. One of the notable exceptions was the deployment of a National Missile Defense (NMD), a modern-day equivalent of Reagan's SDI program. The need for this system is nonexistent now; no credible threat of a ballistic missile attack will emerge for ten to fifteen years, said the CIA in a national intelligence estimate. More importantly, Russia has stated that if the US deployed NMD, this action would be interpreted as a withdrawal from the 1972 Antiballistic Missile Treaty. Consequently, Russia would refuse to ratify START II (a Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty). What does all that mean to America in plain terms? Essentially, it would be an immediate and decisive return to the Cold War.

By looking at the facts instead of making generalizations, one would conclude that Clinton has indeed taken some Republican initiatives and made them his own. The President has, however, been moderate in his actions, and he has kept long-term national interest in mind when making domestic policy decisions. Even the public is becoming more aware of how Clinton's leadership potential is growing in both the domestic and foreign arenas. The president has done a superb job in his first term, and he is the only moderate and reasonable candidate available. So, I would encourage everyone to think twice before voting Republican. There is someone out there who can do many parts of their agenda much better.

LUNCHROOM DILEMMA

William Gilmore and Mark Callahan

One of the leading problems in the state of Tennessee is MBA's lunchroom problem. Everyone complains about it, so I will offer solutions. Over my past four years at MBA, numerous tactics to battle the lunchroom grind have been employed. In seventh grade there was a three-minute wait for each of the homerooms. In eighth grade, they gave up and let the Junior School go to lunch first, then the High School followed. This idea kept for two more years. This year they have tried to split up the lunch period into A and B, which everyone has ignored. The solution lies outside of the school—OFF CAMPUS LUNCH FOR ALL.

One might quickly turn away from this theory, saying that if off campus lunch for the high school were permitted, the food service would raise cane. However, if one has kept up with the national price of a combo meal at McDonalds, the current price tops out around four dollars. So, say you go off campus everyday for a week. At four dollars a day, that's about eighty dollars a

month. It has been my experience that after paying eight thousand for tuition, eighty bucks a month is a lot to ask of parents. The alternative: don't go off campus every day. A student can snag a good meal for around three dollars, which means you save \$20 a month by staying in school. One must also account for gas money. If you pay even the slightest attention to the vehicle of choice for MBA students, you would quickly find four-wheel drives topping your list. It has been my experience, through owning two of these vehicles, that since they guzzle the gas, you had better talk to old Pops about upgrading to the Mobil gold card. The lunchroom providers could also have their nerves calmed by the fact that all the glamour of new things wears off with time. Remember when you first got your license? You wanted to drive everywhere. If your mom had somewhere to go, you drove her. Now come back to modern times, how often do you and your mother get into the same car together? The privilege of going off campus would simply wear off.

Results from MBA's Straw Poll:

321 people voted - 55% of the student body and faculty

74% voted Republican

26% voted Democratic

	# of votes	% of total
Republican:		
Alexander:	108	34
Dole:	61	19
Buchanan:	29	9
Forbes:	11	3
Other:	24	7
Uncommitted:	5	2
Democratic:		
Clinton:	79	25
Uncommitted:	4	1

ALTHOUGH BRIAN IS ABSOLUTELY CORRECT, THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF WOULD LIKE TO REMIND THE READERS THAT THE THOUGHTS AND IDEAS EXPRESSED IN THIS FORUM DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THE OPINIONS OF MONTGOMERY BELL ACADEMY OR ITS EMPLOYEES.



Elizabeth Granbery Dingess
President

Belle Meade Travel
Belle Meade Plaza
4544 Harding Road, Suite 212
Nashville, TN 37205

Tel: (615) 386-9876
Fax: (615) 383-4459
Toll Free: 800-849-6323

LIBER RUBER: CHAPTER THE SECOND

Anonymous

This is the account of the Quadrangle and Wallace when they were created.

And after Gaither had finished his work, he said to his Instructors, Let each of you partake of my enlightenment, and enjoy all the wonders that W-5 and the surrounding area have to offer. Thou mayest partake of the various posters and books in W-5, and be enlightened to your mind's content; but you must not, under any circumstance, park your automobiles within a ten-foot radius of my designated parking space, which I have marked clearly with a large, easy-to-read G; for if ye park within a ten-foot radius thereof, thou shalt surely be smitten, thrown into my oven where there will be much weeping and gnashing of teeth. HAUD INCERTA CANO.

And Let thee all speak LATIN, for it is the only true language.

But one of Gaither's Instructors took offense at this; for she enjoyed conversing in her uncouth, heathen tongues, which combined the unmanliness of French and the hacking, coughing, phlegm-filled sounds of German; worse yet, she sometimes talked in the tongues of the common people, English and Spanish, which Gaither had expressly forbidden.

This Instructor, called Grendel, said, Let us not speak in the offensive tongue of ROMA ANTIQUA; for that language is reminiscent of the male-dominated soci-

ety and the dysfunctional patriarchal family units that gave birth to it.

And another Instructor, named Gertrude, uneasily voiced concurrence. But in her heart she knew that LATIN was the only true language, and that all other languages were only the sad attempts of common people to mimic the noble ROMANS.

And Grendel and Gertrude were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Now Grendel was more crafty than any of the Instructors which Gaither had made. Grendel said to Gertrude, Yea, hath Gaither said, Ye shall not park thy automobile in just any parking space of the Quadrangle?

And Gertrude said unto Grendel, We may park our automobiles in most any parking space near the Quadrangle:

But of the parking space which is directly adjacent to Wallace, Gaither hath said, Ye shall not park within a ten-foot radius thereof, lest ye be smitten.

And Grendel said, Ye shall not surely be smitten: for Gaither doth know that the day ye park within a ten-foot radius thereof, ye shall be as Gods, knowing good and evil, and able to conjugate every Latin verb in existence.

And when Grendel came within a ten-foot radius of the parking space, she saw that it was good, and that it was pleasant to the eye, and she did park therein, and made sure to leave room for Gertrude, who did also

park therein.

And their eyes were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed some short skirts, in imitation of Gaither's toga, with which to cover their unsightly bodies.

And they heard the steady hum of Gaither's automobile as he approached at the fifth hour, and they hid themselves from his presence.

And Gaither shouted, Who hast parked their automobiles within a ten-foot radius of the sacred letter G? Show thy faces, ye blasphemers!

Grendel showed herself, and lied to Gaither, saying, I know not whose automobiles are parked here; perhaps a Student parked them.

But Gaither looked at Grendel's disgusting face, and said, HEU! QUAM DIFFICILE EST CRIMEN NON PRODERE VULTU!

And Gertrude said, Grendel hath beguiled me, and I did park therein, and I did speak the ungodly tongues at her bidding.

And Gaither said unto them, Those who sin together art smitten together; so shall ye be combined into a single being of evil, and banished to the underworld for eternity, teaching thy heathenous language to any unenlightened fool who wishes to listen.

So Gaither drove Grendel and Gertrude, now a single entity, from W-5; and he placed at the door of that room Cherubims, and a flaming VIRGA which turned every way, to keep the way of W-5 and of Gaither's sacred parking space.

TSSAA

SPLIT

(continued from page 1)

schools that choose from year to year to move up and down according to their chances at a state championship. That is not competition to me. Competition is to go out and do the very best you can against the highest caliber."

This desire for competition is what dictates this school's position on the proposed split. MBA wants to remain in the TSSAA, so that we may remain at the highest level of competition available. MBA's position, however, is influenced by another controversial issue: financial aid. For years this problem has ravaged the emotions of MBA coaches who are forced to tell some of their athletes that they cannot play because, in short, their parents cannot afford to pay their way to MBA. The TSSAA rule, which gives coaches a maximum number of players who can be on financial aid per team, was made with the intention to prohibit athletic scholarships. But, as Coach Bills emphasizes, MBA's financial aid is "not the same as an athletic scholarship. This forces me to choose two players from three almost identical kids." Therefore, one kid, at least, per year "gets a raw deal" as he watches from the stands. MBA has been meeting with fellow private school TSSAA members, working on an alternative to this rule. But, since public schools are unlikely to give in to any change in this rule, a split might be the only way to give all MBA students a fair shot to play on their desired teams.

In a way, it appears that MBA is looking for the best of both worlds—we want to remain in the TSSAA to compete at the highest level in the state, but we also want to put an end to the restrictive financial aid regulations. Although ostensibly both of these desires are entirely fair (they represent MBA ideals exactly), it seems that one of them must give. All MBA can do now is to wait for the May 1st re-vote, and hope that speeches, like the one Mr. Bennett gave at the March 14th Board of Controls meeting, will show the council the validity of our desires. "The split seems to be all about championships and nothing else—not academics, athletics, or anything else," aptly commented Mr. Pruitt. Hopefully, public schools around the state will see the deeper issue that MBA seems to have valued for so long—the pride that comes with success at the highest level far outweighs the pride of winning at any other level.

Editor-in-Chief: Benjamin Purser

Editors

Managing: Evan Chen
Copy: Eric Compton
Entertainment: Matt Reasor
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SPORTS

BASEBALL

Whit Polley and Matthew Berry

With last year's Baseball Team having set the all-time school record for wins in a season with a 30-4 mark, the 1996 MBA squad looks to continue MBA's winning ways this season. With the loss of nine seniors from last year's squad, this year's Baseball Team will have to look for leadership from its returning starters and its new core of seniors. The Big Red does return All-District third

baseman Grant Martin, All-District and All-State Tournament Matt Garrett, and All-State Tournament Andy Anderson. This year's group of seniors, John Sexton, Corey Yates, and Whit Polley, will provide upstart leadership. In addition, the Baseball Team will have to depend on production from underclassmen such as Will McInnes, Chad Grief, Duke Rose, Allen Huggins, and Michael Martin.

The team opened the season at home against a scrappy Dickson County Team. Ace righty John Sexton pitched well through five innings, allowing only two runs; sophomore lefty Duke Rose got the save as he pitched out of a bases-loaded jam. Next in line for the Big Red was the annual Spring Break Trip. The first stop was in Chattanooga against McCallie. Duke Rose started the

game strong, but MBA's defense fell apart and the offense could not get going. Then it started to rain. The Big Red's next game was also rained out, so they went on to Atlanta, where they were scheduled to play Marist and Westminster. The rain stopped long enough to have two practices and a game against Marist. Pitching in awful conditions, John Sexton was masterful and, again, Duke Rose closed. The Big Red offense came alive and helped MBA improve to 2-1. MBA's next game was played at home against Brentwood High. Duke Rose shut down Brentwood's offense pitching a complete game, and Matt Garrett hit his first homer of the season. MBA improved to 3-1 and gladly took its 11th place state ranking. The Big Red's next match-up was against a much improved and undefeated Hillsboro Team. John Sexton totally shut down the Hillsboro offense with a near perfect performance, and Will McInnes smashed a three-run homer as the Big Red handed Hillsboro their first loss.

This year promises to be another successful year for the Big Red Baseball Team, and everyone should come out and support the Big Red Machine as they strive to defend their District and Region titles.



First baseman Andy Anderson scoots towards the batter -- who swings and misses at one of Duke Rose's fastballs

RIFLERY ENDS YEAR WITH A BANG

David Gregory

Six years ago the MBA Air Rifle Team began practice in the old cafeteria coached by Lt. Colonel Leo Lujan. In that year, the team practiced for only a short amount of time, around two months. In the 92-93 year it was decided that the team would compete with BB guns instead of pellet rifles, both because the gun is better for younger, smaller shooters and there is more competition at the junior high level with the BB gun. That same year two MBA teams took first and third in the State Competition.

In the next year the oldest shooters went back to air rifles while the Microbes continued to shoot BB guns. During the 93-94 school year the Air Rifle Team began practice in the winter months and ended the season in the spring after having shot against only a handful of teams. This year the team, made up of David Gregory, Andrew Esterday, Brad Mayo, Andy Gaither, and Andrew Thomison, began practice in October and will end practice in early May in order to be able to compete with a more diverse group of schools.

The season, which will end on May 11 with a tournament in Atlanta, has been an extremely successful one. The team entered five separate tournaments this year and placed 1st or 2nd in all except one. In one-on-one matches, the team has also done very well, compiling a 4-3 record against teams from Atlanta, Georgia, North and South Carolina, and California. Three weeks ago, the team went on a three-day tour of Georgia and Alabama. On that trip the team shot against three of the best teams in the South, Creekside High School, Carver High School, and Huffman High in Birmingham. The team suffered defeat only from Creekside, beating the other two teams handily.

In addition to competing with the air rifle, this year the team also began practicing smallbore rifle at Vanderbilt for two hours on Monday nights. On two separate occasions, the team competed in matches with smallbore rifles at Tennessee Tech in Cookeville, placing second in both. Joined by senior Daniel Rivers, the team also competed in the league competition, which has been in existence for over 40 years. The team had a rough time in the first four matches and could only manage a 3rd place finish. However, in the last match before the State competition, the team broke ahead of recent powerhouse FRA and took first place. In the State competition a week later the team of David Gregory, Daniel Rivers, Andrew Esterday, and Andrew Thomison dethroned the reigning state champions FRA. In the individual competition, MBA had all four shooters in the top ten and took first and third places as well.



David Gregory, Coach Lujan, Andy Andrews, Jeff Ramsey, and Andy Gaither discuss the kneeling position.

The team's future looks very good. With only one senior graduating and a pool of over twenty BB gun shooters from which to draw, the team has excellent prospects for even more improvement. "When you think of what we accomplished with one senior, two freshmen, and two eighth graders, you know the future is bright for the MBA rifle program," said Coach Lujan.

The Bell Ringer
4001 Harding Road
Nashville, TN 37205